
MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 18, 2007
(Approved August 15, 2007)

Opening Ceremonies

The Board of Directors convened in Open Session at 6:15 p.m. July 18, 2007 at the Moraga Fire Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way in Moraga, California. President Wyro called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

President Wyro	Chief Nowicki
Director Gottfried	Battalion Chief Collins
Director Sperling	
Director Weil	
Director Wilson	

At 6:17 p.m., the Board went into Closed Session.

Business Meeting

President Wyro reconvened the regular business meeting of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors at 7:14 p.m. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

President Wyro	Chief Nowicki	District Counsel Meyers
Director Gottfried	Battalion Chief Maxwell	Secretary Pokorny
Director Sperling	Battalion Chief Collins	
Director Weil	Fire Marshal Hoover	
Director Wilson		

Report of Closed Session Action

President Wyro stated that there was no reportable action taken concerning Item 2.1, Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code Section 54957.6) Agency Designated Representatives: Fire Chief Pete Nowicki, Employee Organizations: Association of Federated Firefighters IAFF, Local 1230.

Public Comment

Mr. Clyde Vaughn (59 Donna Maria Way) asked if the Fire Flow Tax had been set for the Orinda Zone at 5 or 6 cents. President Wyro replied that the Preliminary Budget has been adopted and the rate was set at 5 cents in the Moraga and Orinda zones.

Jonathan Goodwin (Canyon, CA) praised the Fire District. He again mentioned that not settling negotiations was a bad situation, and he feels it makes things difficult for the firefighters and the community. He also asked about his request of putting meeting dates on the reader board outside St. 41. Chief Nowicki reported that he has given direction to Steve Mazaika to construct a removable board to use on the reader board to display meeting dates.

Gary Pearl (Captain for MOFD) stated that the Chief had pointed out to him the hierarchy of the District and the Board is obviously the top of the food chain, so to speak. In that respect, the Board is the head of the Safety Committee. With that in mind, he informed the Board that the District's Safety Committee would be meeting Friday, July 20th to discuss the closing of Station 42 for approximately 17 hours and operating Station 44 with only two personnel for approximately 5 hours on July 7th. He believes this is an extremely serious situation that places the public and firefighters in extreme jeopardy and thought that the Board should know about it. President Wyro replied that he would like to learn more about the situation but that Public Forum was not the appropriate time to discuss the issue but requested that the Chief give the Board a report regarding the shutdowns.

Mr. William Dick (84 Greenfield Dr., Moraga) reported what he believes is a safety issue regarding Station 42, driving north on Moraga Rd. He stated that it is very difficult to see apparatus coming out of the driveway of Station 42. On two occasions,

his vehicle was almost hit by apparatus coming out of the station. He recently found out that the Federal Government had given a grant to Moraga and he feels it should be used to add a light at Ascot Drive.

Mr. Dick Olsen (1861 Andrews Dr., Moraga) wanted to comment on what Mr. Dick said. He recalled that at the time of construction of Station 42, the subject came up about the difficulty of seeing anything coming out of the driveway. Shortly after the Station was built, the District received several letters of complaint about near accidents. His recollection is that there was some difficulty with the Town of Moraga's Design Review Board at the scenic corridor there. Mr. Olsen thinks putting a stop light at Ascot and Moraga Road could be coordinated using Opticom in shutting down traffic when St. 42 apparatus exits.

Consent Agenda

It was *M/S/C by unanimous vote, to approve the Consent Agenda except for Items 6.2, Monthly/Annual Incident summary and 6.5, Ambulance Billing Report.

6.2 – Director Wilson asked why the response time was increasing. Chief Nowicki responded that the problem is with how the incidents are date and time-stamped by Dispatch. BC Collins has been working with the District's IT Team on ways to adjust the Medical Data (MDT) in the apparatus to better report accurate response times.

Director Sperling thought that the Board should direct staff to look at the best way to report incident response times that are more meaningful to the Board and public.

It was *M/S/C by unanimous vote to approve Item 6.2, of the Consent Agenda.

6.5 – Ambulance Billing - Director Wilson asked why a full Ambulance Billing Report including a full analysis of the various entries was not in the packet. Chief Nowicki replied that staff's attention had been pulled away on other issues but an analysis would be presented at the August meeting.

It was *M/S/C by unanimous vote to approve Item 6.5 of the Consent Agenda.

Possible adoption of Resolution 07-07, revising and re-establishing the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's annual appropriations for 2000-01 through 2007-08.

Chief Nowicki started the discussion by thanking Administrative Manager Casey, (she was not present) for her time and effort in re-establishing the District's annual appropriation limit for 2000-01 through 2007-08. A/M Casey went back to the year 2000 using the appropriate calculations up to the present fiscal year 2007-08. These re-calculated figures will become the new base for the District's future spending limits.

Director Wilson asked why the District needed to go as far back as the year 2000. District Counsel Meyers replied that it is necessary to get an accurate figure because it accumulates forward. It was M/S/C by unanimous vote to approve Resolution 07-07, revising and re-establishing the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's annual appropriations for 2000-01 through 2007-08.

AYES: Directors Gottfried, Weil, Wilson, Sperling and President Wyro

NOES: None ABSENT: None ABSTAIN: None

Apparatus Lease Finance Option

BC Maxwell gave a detailed presentation regarding the District's option to lease apparatus. He expanded on the need to replace current apparatus. A few of the apparatus are out of service at the moment and it could cause potential problems in the future if it continues to happen.

Directors Sperling and Weil felt that this was a good presentation with more information than previously given.

President Wyro recommended the lease option for several pieces of apparatus as it gives the District more opportunities in purchasing abilities. He feels that maybe the District needs to revisit the apparatus replacement schedule more frequently, refining previous assumptions based on experience.

Public Comment

Mr. Goodwin asked that when a piece of apparatus goes out of service, could apparatus be borrowed from other Districts. BC Maxwell replied yes, MOFD could.

After continued discussion and questions by the Board, it was M/S/C with a vote of 4 to 1 with Director Wilson opposing, to move forward with the Apparatus Lease Finance Option.

*Moved/Seconded/Carried

Committee Reports

Director Wilson reported that the Planning /Finance Committee met in July to discuss the District's *Long-Range Plan*. He and Director Weil disagreed on the formatting changes. Director Wilson does not believe approval of the Long-Range Plan needs to be rushed. Director Sperling disagreed. He feels if there are substantial changes then he needs to see them to make an informed decision regarding the fiscal year's budget. Director Weil feels that the new format will add additional information.

Correspondence

President Wyro acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the correspondence received.

Announcements

Fire Chief Nowicki comments:

- He thanked FM Hoover, Admin. Secretary Pokorny, the crews and the Reserves for their help coordinating and working on the 30/10 Celebration.
- He thanked BC Maxwell for his great ideas and advice.
- The agreement with Wilder was accepted at the Orinda City Council Meeting last night.
- He received letters of praise from other agencies regarding the three strike teams that were sent out to cover recent fires.
- The Recruit Academy graduation will be held on August 11th.
- A dedicated ambulance will be staffed at Station 45 starting on July 1st. Personnel are welcome to work overtime while working out the details. It will be implemented on August 1st.

Informational Comments from Board Members and Staff

Director Wilson asked if the word "questions" could be added to Informational Comments. President Wyro thought that questions and comments could be addressed in this section but the word "questions" could be added as agreed to at the previous Board meeting.

President Wyro commented that he appreciates staff for keeping the Directors aware of what is going on in the District, such as Strike Teams going out, etc. He also thanked the strike teams for their dedication and hard work.

Director Sperling commented that he received a call from Supervisor Uilkema who had met with Fire representatives of East County. She suggested that they get together with MOFD to discuss issues of concern to them.

Director Wilson commented that East County Fire representatives have met with Board members before and that he would be glad to talk with them again.

Adjournment

At 8:20 p.m., President Wyro issued an Order of Adjournment for the Closed Session item to be held on July 23, 2007, at 6:30 p.m.

Christine Pokorny
Secretary to the Board